

In the last Congress, the replacement tax began at 1 percent for adjusted gross incomes in excess of \$120,000 on a joint return, and increased to 2.08 percent for income greater than \$150,000, which is where the minimum tax exemption begins to phase out. This year I have given the Secretary of the Treasury the ability to set the rate so that this bill would be revenue neutral over ten years. The initial threshold amount and the second threshold amount remain the same—\$120,000 and \$150,000 in the cases of a joint return.

CONCLUSION

Ironically, this simplification proposal must be complex, because it mirrors our current law. I want, therefore, to focus on what is important.

This bill provides fairly dramatic simplification of the individual tax system.

It eliminates approximately 200 lines on tax forms, schedules and worksheets.

It is basically revenue neutral, so it can be accomplished during a year when there is no non-social security non-medicare budget surplus to fund tax cuts.

It does not attempt to shift money between income groups. The general philosophy behind the bill is that those who benefit from tax simplification of the current code should offset any revenue loss involved.

It is estimated that more than 50 percent of individuals use tax return preparers, and that more than 16 percent use computer software to prepare their return. Only about one-third of individuals actually fill out their own forms. There is no excuse for that reality, and we should do something about it. Given the lack of resources to write another major tax bill the priority for which is likely to be business tax breaks anyway, the reality that no one wants to pay for simplification no matter how much they support the goal, and the need to resolve the solvency issues surrounding social security and Medicare, I think the opportunity exists this year to solve some of the problems that bother all our constituents during this tax filing season in the manner that I have suggested. I am introducing this legislation to continue the discussion I began in the last Congress, and I hope it will be seriously considered by all parties.

MARKING THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAGEDY OF TWA FLIGHT #800

HON. FELIX J. GRUCCI, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2001

Mr. GRUCCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the fifth anniversary of the trag-

edy of TWA Flight #800, remembering the passengers and crew who perished in that horrible event, and expressing our thoughts and sympathies to the families they left behind and those who participated in the rescue and recovery effort in the days following.

On the night of July 17, 1996, I was called and told that the unthinkable happened. A commercial jet, TWA Flight #800 bound from New York to Paris, had exploded in the skies over Long Island's South Shore.

There were no survivors.

As a locally elected official of the community closest to the crash site, I was one of the first people on the scene in the moments following the crash at the U.S. Coast Guard Facility in East Moriches, New York.

This tragedy has left an indelible memory that will last forever in the minds of all the residents of Long Island. They rallied to the aid of those who needed them when Flight #800 crashed off the shores of East Moriches.

I speak today to honor not only those who lost their lives that night, but the families and friends they left behind and those who worked so hard, day and night, in the recovery effort.

For so long after this tragedy, many of our residents wanted to know how they could help the families of the victims or those participating in the rescue effort. They came with donations of food, clothing, and eventually contributed to the construction of two separate memorials.

The Tragedy of TWA Flight #800 is an event that has changed all of us as a nation forever, and one we should never forget.

As the families of our lost neighbors and friends gather on the South Shore of Long Island in a candlelight vigil, Colleagues, please join me today in remembering and honoring the fifth anniversary of this tragedy with a moment of silence. Let us also recognize those who worked so hard in the rescue and recovery effort, and in expressing our sympathy and support to the families who lost a loved one that frightful night five years ago.

HONORING MR. ANTHONY F. CAROZZA FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CAREER IN THE RESTAURANT AND FOOD SERVICE INDUSTRY

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2001

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Mr. Anthony F. Carozza, known as "Tony" by his friends and family, retired on the first day of May 2001, after more than 40 years of exemplary service in the restaurant industry; and

Whereas, Tony launched his career in 1960 with Gino's successfully assisting in the start up of many of these famous food chains, and

Whereas, in 1962, he desired a new challenge, and he opened three of his own pizza and sub shops, in Baltimore, MD, called Tony's Snack Shops; and

Whereas, in 1970, Tony Carozza and family grew tired of city life, and up and moved to Ocean City, Maryland, where Tony worked as pile driver in the frigid February waters before becoming a manager at Pappy's Pizza and Beer, and taking over Beefy's, the first real fast food restaurant in this resort town; and

Whereas, in a small community where all the locals known each other, Tony, his wife, Mary Pat, and their four young children ran the restaurant, with each family member making his/her own significant and sometimes humorous contribution to the business; and

Whereas, the Carozza home and Beefy's served as a "home away from home" for countless friends, neighbors, and family members who shared many fond and funny memories with the Carozza family including enjoying the famous upside down Christmas tree hanging from the rafters of Beefy's; and

Whereas, in 1980, Tony, a shrewd businessman who was known for being tough on salesmen, began his 20 years in the food service industry, beginning with Shoreland Food Service, followed by PYA Monarch from 1985–1990, then Sandler Foods from 1990–1993, and ending finally in 2001 with J.P. Food Service/U.S. Food Service; and

Whereas, his many years of hard work in the restaurant business led to his becoming an award winning salesman with J.P. Food Service/U.S. Food Service bringing in over \$3.5 million annually for several consecutive years; and

Whereas, Tony Carozza's impressive work ethic and complete dedication to his family and his community have brought him many successes and much happiness, and his many friends and family members who recognize his integrity, his standards of conduct, and his honorable work and life code.

Now therefore, on behalf of the United States Congress, I take great pleasure and pride in joining with his family and friends to honor Anthony F. Carozza upon his retirement after more than 40 years of outstanding service to his customers, community, and family.